Rec'd PC TO 16 OCT 2001 09/936505

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 35 USC 111

Commissioner for Patents Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the application as follows. A clean copy of the amended claims is provided herein. Kindly substitute the clean version of the amended claims (as set forth in Appendix A) for the pending claims having the same claim number. A marked-up version of the claim amendments is set forth as follows.